

**Oregon Tualatin Valley
Amateur Radio Club**

The OSCILLATOR

FEBRUARY 2009

Issue 2009:02
Our 31st Year

The Oregon Tualatin Valley Amateur Radio Club is a special service club related to ARRL: The National Association for Amateur Radio. We seek to advance the Amateur Radio Service through:

- ⇒ Education and Training of new and licensed amateurs
- ⇒ Public Service and Emergency communication
- ⇒ Hobby nets, contests and meetings
- ⇒ Social events

Membership is available to anyone. An amateur radio license is not required.

DESECHEO ISLAND DXPEDITION THIS MONTH

The DXpedition to Desecheo Island, February 12-26, will use call sign K5D. "As soon as we land on Desecheo, two stations will be immediately activated," said DXpedition co-leader Bob Allphin K4UEE. Stations will continue to operate until the final moments of departure on February 26."

Desecheo sits at number 7 on DX Magazine's *Most Wanted* list. The island is the second most-wanted DXCC entity among hams in Asia and third most-wanted in Europe. Desecheo is an island in the Mona Passage, 14 miles off the west coast of Puerto Rico. It is part of the US Fish and Wildlife Service's national wildlife refuge system administered by the Caribbean National Wildlife Refuge Complex (CNWR).

"Because Desecheo is so very rare," Allphin said, "there are many, many hams worldwide that need KP5 for an all-time new one. Therefore, we are asking that you not contact the DXpedition on any band/mode that you have confirmed from a previous DXpedition. This will allow the people who really need a new DXCC entity a better opportunity to get through the pileups. Our objective is not to establish a world record for contacts. There will be no 'greenies,' no boxes to check, no competitions for most band/mode QSOs, no certificate or awards for contacting the DXpedition more times than anyone else. So if you have KP5 already confirmed on a particular band/mode, we respectfully ask that you exercise restraint. If, late in

See DESCHEO, Page 5

CLUB MEETING

Wednesday,
February 11th

Our meeting will be held at The Peppermill Restaurant, 17455 SW Farmington Road in Beaverton on Wednesday, February 11th. Come at 6:00 PM and order off the menu. Our Club Meeting begins at 7:00 PM.

CLEAR, the new Internet provider, will present our program. They'll explain how the 4G wireless data network works and the services provided by CLEAR.

Guests are always welcome and an amateur radio license is not required.

Check out our web site: www.otvarc.org for more information.

FCC APPOINTS NEW SPECIAL COUNSEL

Laura L. Smith of Pennsylvania has been named by the FCC to fill the vacancy created when Riley Hollingsworth, K4ZDH, retired in 2008 as Special Counsel for the Spectrum Enforcement Division of the FCC's Enforcement Bureau. Hollingsworth served in that position for more than 10 years as the FCC's enforcement watchdog over the Amateur Radio Service.

A graduate of the Pepperdine University School of Law, Smith began her career with the FCC, working in the Mass Media and Wireless Telecommunications Bureau. She served as Deputy Division Chief of the Public Safety and Private Wireless Division. Smith is currently licensed to practice in the Commonwealth of Virginia.

Smith returns to the FCC after serving Of Counsel with the Maryland law firm of Shulman Rogers. While there, she dealt with telecommunications matters and provided counsel to numerous entities in the private radio and public safety communities. Smith has served as an industry consultant and written columns for a variety of trade publications including Mobile Radio Technology Magazine and The Private Wireless Magazine.

WEATHER ACTIVATES ARES

After another week of wild weather in Oregon and Washington, residents in those states are glad to see the Sun again. With an onslaught of wind, snow and rain, hams in the affected areas have been called upon by local served agencies to lend a helping hand. From providing 911 support to helping out with communications in area shelters, Amateur Radio operators assisted during the storm events.

In Oregon, David Kidd KA7OZO, District One Emergency Coordinator, reported that the storms moved into the area on Wednesday, January 7 and continued throughout the rest of the week. ARES units in Clatsop, Columbia and Tillamook Counties were activated in advance of the storms that were expected to bring flooding, mud slides, blocked roadways from downed trees, as well as the potential loss of various utilities. Washington County remained on alert in case of need.

In Clatsop County, Kidd said that amateurs were assisted in the county's Emergency Operations Center, while in Columbia and Tillamook Counties, the County Emergency Coordinator activated local ARES units for the duration of the storms. "Columbia County deployed radio teams to four areas where they anticipated getting severe floods," Kidd reported. "These places can flood at the blink of an eyelash, so they pre-deployed hams to these areas."

Luckily for Oregonians, the storm tracked north through Washington. "We were spared somewhat when the storm stalled over Washington," Kidd said. "Granted, we got a lot of wind and rain, but not like they did north of us. All the counties here are watching their rivers go down and are in some level of recovery."

Oregon Weather gives hams a very personal reason to keep their skills current and develop emergency power. [From ARRL News]

OTVARC ADDRESS:
880 NE 25th Ave Ste 2-160
Hillsboro OR 97124-6258
otvarc@gmail.com

SOLAR CYCLE 24 ONE YEAR OLD

"On January 4, 2008, a reversed-polarity sunspot appeared, and this signaled the start of Solar Cycle 24," says David Hathaway of the Marshall Space Flight Center. "Solar activity waxes and wanes in 11-year cycles. Lately, we've been experiencing the low ebb, very few flares, sunspots, or activity of any kind," says Hathaway. "Solar minimum is upon us."

The previous solar cycle, Solar Cycle 23, peaked in 2000-2002 with many furious solar storms. That cycle decayed as usual to the present quiet leaving solar physicists little to do other than wonder, when would the next cycle begin? Solar Cycle 24 began 13 months ago, but has been slow in rising to levels of previous cycles.

Sunspot 981, on January 4th last year, was small. It was about as wide as Earth, which counts as small on the grand scale of the sun. Its three day appearance on Jan. 4-6 was enough to convince most solar physicists that Solar Cycle 24 was underway. Doug Biesecker of NOAA's Space Weather Prediction Center in Boulder, Colorado, likens sunspot 981 "to the first robin of spring. There's still snow on the ground, but the seasons are changing." On January 30, 2009 sunspot 1010 appeared briefly, another Cycle 24 spot. Solar cycles take a few years to build from solar minimum (where we are now) to Solar Max, expected in 2011 or 2012.

LUNCH BUNCH

Join us for LUNCH BUNCH
 Saturday, February 28th
 1:30 pm

Five Guys Burgers & Fries
 2606 Cedar Hills Blvd.
 Beaverton, Or
 (Corner Walker Road)
 503-430-8748

Information?
 Linda KC7YTD
 503.246.8879

NO VHF SWR METER? NO PROBLEM

By Dan Romanchik, KB6NU

I subscribe to a lot of amateur radio mailing lists. One of the most interesting is the HamRadioHelpGroup mailing list (<http://groups.yahoo.com/group/HamRadioHelpGroup>).

Recently, a ham asked:

Will a CB SWR meter work on a 2 meter ham radio??

Mark, K5LXP, replied:

"Yes and no. I use a CB SWR meter to check 2M antennas all the time. There is a trick to it however."

"If all you want to do is check SWR on your 2M antenna, you don't necessarily have to buy a dedicated VHF/UHF SWR meter. What I keep in my tool bag for that is a cheapie \$5 hamfest special CB SWR meter. They really don't work well on 2M but there's a trick you can do that will net a reasonably accurate SWR reading on 2M with one of these meters. What you do is connect up the meter as usual, key the rig with the switch in the forward power position, set the adjustment for full scale. Now, without touching anything, swap the coax connections so that the rig is connected to the ANT side of the meter, and the antenna is connected to the 'XCVR' side.

The reading you see on the meter will be very close to your real SWR. The closer to 1:1 your SWR is, the more accurate it will be. It would be more convenient to have a real SWR meter or antenna analyzer if you do a lot of testing, but for a quick antenna check after a mobile install or whatever, the \$5 CB meters work OK."

"The theory is relatively simple."

"A basic SWR bridge is comprised of two couplers, each of which consist of a stripline or a pickup loop, and a detector diode. One coupler is used to detect forward power, the other reflected."

"At 27 MHz, the precision of the components required isn't too stringent. Just about any diode will work, and minor imperfections in the stripline or pickup coils won't impact the accuracy that much."

"But at 2M suddenly minor differences between the striplines, stray capacitance, and type of diode starts to matter. By using just one of the couplers for both the forward and reverse readings any error that exists in that coupler is the same for both readings and thus cancels out. It's unlikely it'll work at 440 however, it's just too much to ask to expect a true 50 ohm network and zero bias or hot carrier diode in a cheap CB meter."

"The absolute reading on 2M may still be somewhat inaccurate, especially at high SWR but odds are you don't care about that. All you're interested in is 1:1 or as close to it as you can get, and for that the \$5 meters will be good enough."

When I asked his permission to use this, Mark said, "I don't get the credit, I picked it up from an old-timer years ago." Well, Mark, you might not get the credit for thinking this up, but you certainly get the credit for passing it on. Thanks!

When not reading his e-mail, Dan likes to work CW on the HF bands. You can catch him around 7030 kHz or 3530 kHz. He blogs about ham radio at www.kb6nu.com.

WORLDWIDE DISTRIBUTION

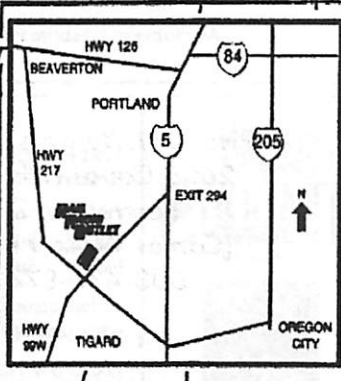


11705 SW PACIFIC HWY
(99W) SUITE Z
PORTLAND, OR 97223

SERVING YOU:
Leon, W7AD, Manager
and
Dan, N7UDE

Now purchasing select estates
and used equipment on the spot.
Contact Leon

Call toll-free from OR, WA, ID, AK
1-800-854-6046
In Portland 503-598-0555
Fax 503-684-0469



PORTLAND, OR ANAHEIM, CA DENVER, CO OAKLAND, CA
PHOENIX, AZ SALEM, NH SAN DIEGO, CA NEWCASTLE, DE
SUNNYVALE, CA VAN NUYS, CA WOODBRIDGE, VA

**DO WE HAVE YOUR CURRENT
ADDRESS, PHONE, AND EMAIL?**

HAMFESTS & CONVENTIONS**14 February 2009****HAMFAIR****Salem Repeater Association****Polk County Fairgrounds****Rickreall, Oregon****Talk-In: 146.86(-) (PL 186.2)****Don Bruschi, K7UN****PO Box 5130****Salem, OR 97304-0130****Phone: 503-371-8070****k7un@arrl.net****http://www.w7sra.com****7 March 2009****Electronics Show****Mike and Key ARC****West. Washington Fairgrounds****Pavilion Exhibition Hall****Puyallup, Washington****Michael Dinkelman N7WA****22222 148th Avenue SE****Kent, WA 98042****253-631-3756****mwdink@eskimo.com****www.mikeandkey.org/flea.htm****5 - 7 June 2009****SEA-PAC****NW DIV. ARRL CONVENTION****Seaside Convention Center****Seaside Oregon****www.seapac.org****Happy February Birthday**

1	KB7NJE	Mary Jo Mosby
4	K7SIX	Ken Davenport
5	WB7FJC	Janet Bell
6	WA3RMX	Thomas Hill
7	KE7DOL	Edwin Elder
8	N7DZR	Willis Ranes
9	WA7YSU	Eric Kosko
13	WG7U	George Lottes
15	N7DPO	David Bennett
15	KB7VHI	Alvin Carlson
15	AI9Q	C. Wayne Schuler
21	KA7NAN	Sharon Coan
24	W7VPV	Richard Booth
26	KA7RNN	Roger Noyes
27	KB7POR	Alan Chinnock
27	K7FW	Dale Mosby
28	WB6SHR	Paul Lucas

Have we missed your birthday? Likely we do not have your correct date in our database. Send updates and corrections to otvarc@gmail.com

WAS WATCH

We have forty-eight verified contacts and need two for Worked All States for W7OTV. Our needed states are Arkansas and Delaware.

Your business advertising in *THE OSCILLATOR* is seen each month by more than 200 members read *THE OSCILLATOR*.

To include your "Business Card" ad (\$48.00 annually) or "Display" - HRO size ad (\$60.00 annually), contact **Maureen O'Rourke** at 503.591.9641. There is currently limited space available.



J. Steven Sanders
Certified General Appraiser
Sanders Appraisal, PC

503-320-4100**jss10@verizon.net****Orencia Station, Hillsboro, OR 97124****Fax: 503-547-8200**

Get your lips ready for your Valentine. Your best tool for this project is Oregon Trail Lip Balm.

OREGON TRAIL LIP BALM

Created by: **Maureen O'Rourke KA7LAP**
mcorourke@netzero.com

Available at Hillsboro Pharmacy

DC POWER**Anderson Connectors & More****Wes Allen, K7WWG****665 SW 167th Ave • 503-531-4081****Beaverton, OR 97006****e-mail: sales@dcpwr.com****Web: www.dcpwr.com**

Karl Anderson NM 7N
Broker

DIRECT: 503-608-5206**CELL: 503-863-4894****FAX: 503-590-7606**

karlanderson@meadowsgroup.com
www.meadowsgroup.com

12655 SW North Dakota Street
Tigard, Oregon 97223

BILLS IN OREGON LEGISLATURE

These were suggestions for contact with your State Legislators on the proposed Cell Phone bills in the last session of the Oregon Legislature. There are new bills that affect Amateur Radio mobile operation in the current session. Amateur radio operators should send an email or letter to the committee members educating them on the important role Hams play in emergencies etc., explain why operating an amateur radio is different than a cell phone, and suggest that the legislation be amended to exempt amateur radio operators licensed by the Federal Communications Commission.

Letters are more effective, so take the time to write and mail one. Send it to the committee chair with a cc to each committee member. Also cc your own State Senator and State Representative (see below for a link to how to find your Senator and Representative).

Our correspondence with legislators needs to be laser focused on specific issues. We don't need to try and argue for or against the legislation's impact on cell phone usage, for example. Leave that fight to someone else. Our goal is specifically to get amateur radio exempted from this piece of legislation and our energies should be focused there.

Make your letters brief, concise and polite. Remember, you know far more than they do about amateur radio so take the opportunity to educate them in a kind manner about our hobby and why it

DESECHEO, from Page 1

the DXpedition, we are calling CQ for contacts, we will welcome your call."

DXpedition co-leader Glenn Johnson, W0GJ, said the team will be running CW, SSB and RTTY on 160-6 meters. "We've had tremendous support from DX organizations all over the world and from numerous equipment and antenna manufacturers," he told the ARRL. "We are diligently working on the propagation studies to reach our hard-to-work areas of Asia and Europe. This plus our planned antennas, we should knock Desecheo off of the Most Wanted List for a long time to come."

OUR VOLUNTEER EXAM TEAM

The OTVARC VE team held its first session of the new year on January 3rd, with seven applicants. We had 100% success, with three new Technicians, and two upgrades each to General and Extra. Thanks to VEs Rich KD7GIE, Ernie K7EAJ, and Claire N7CM.

Our next sessions are Saturdays February 7 and March 7 at 1:00 pm at the Ronler Acres Fire Station.

73 Carl WS7L

NAQP JANUARY 17th RESULTS

Thank you to all who participated in the latest running of the North American QSO Party. As you may know our results were not comparable to past efforts. And an extra special thanks to those who brought food, beverages and equipment for our use and consumption!

This year we had several things all come together at once:

- * An ice covered vertical antenna that didn't want to tune until it un-thawed.
- * Propagation on 20-meters opened late in the morning and closed well before dinner time.
- * Propagation on 40-meters opened for a while, then faded away and didn't return.
- * No 75-meter contacts were logged due to a developing problem with the only 75-meter antenna, a multi-band dipole.

On the plus side we did make a number of 15-meter contacts for a change!

Overall, here are the results:

- * 118 contacts.
- * 50 multipliers.
- * 5,900 total score.
- * 32 States worked.
- * 2 Canadian Provinces.

Ron O'Connor KD7VIK
Contest Group Organizer

[The dipole was found to have a "cooked" balun. It has been replaced and is functioning.]

ARRL-Oregon Section leadership will be working to amend the legislation by adding the following exemption for amateur radio operators: “Nothing in this act shall be construed to apply to voice or data transmissions by an Amateur Radio operator possessing a valid amateur service license issued by the Federal Commu-